

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 15, 2009, has been carefully reviewed, and the following remarks are made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-10 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-10 are rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention is respectfully traversed. Specifically, Applicant respectfully traverses the comment that the phrase “out of retaining engagement” recited in Claim 1 is indefinite because “it is unclear exactly what element the hook member is out of engagement with.” Applicant has amended Claim 1 to address the concerns recited in the Office Action. Applicant submits that, as amended, Claim 1 satisfies the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the recitation “so as to urge the portion of the latch member into engagement with the hook member” as recited in Claim 6 after reading the specification in light of the drawings. Specifically, at page 3 of the specification, spring 35 is described as being used to pull the lower end 30 of hook 3 away from opening 20 containing pin 1 (movable member). Page 3 of the specification also describes that spring 35 is used to urge hook 3 into engagement with roller 45 (a portion of latch member). In light of the specification, Applicant submits that the recitation in Claim 6 would be readily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 2-10 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-10 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 2-10 likewise satisfy the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph.

For at least reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Collet et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,811,118) (hereinafter referred to as “Collet”) is respectfully traversed.

Collet describes a latch device 10 for latching an aircraft landing gear. Latch device 10 includes a hook 12 that engages a nut 50, and a locking lever 14 that is coupled to hook 12 via a spring 20. Locking lever 14 includes a wheel 25 that is maintained in contact with a top portion 23 of hook 12. During an unlocking operation, an electromagnet 100 displaces a pusher 104 that pushes against an appendix 37 of locking lever 14. Locking lever 14 pivots clockwise about an axis 15 and hook 12 pivots counterclockwise about an axis 13. As hook 12 and locking lever 14 pivot, wheel 25 maintains contact with top portion 23 of hook 12. Hook 12 disengages nut 50 and nut 50 is released. Notably, Collet does not describe nor suggest a latching mechanism that includes a hook member having an angled contact surface configured to contact a portion of a latch member such that a force applied by the contact surface to the portion of the latch member rotates the portion into engagement with the hook member and limits a rotation of the hook member.

Claim 1 recites “A locking mechanism for engaging and retaining a movable member, wherein the mechanism includes a hook member mounted for angular displacement about a first axis such that the hook member is movable into and out of retaining engagement with the movable member, a latch member mounted for angular displacement about a second axis parallel with the first axis, the latch member having a portion thereof spaced from the second axis . . . wherein the hook member includes an angled contact surface configured to contact the portion of the latch member such that a force applied by the contact surface to the portion of the latch member rotates the portion into engagement with the hook member and limits a rotation of the hook member.

Collet does not describe nor suggest a locking mechanism as is recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Collet does not describe nor suggest a latching mechanism that includes a hook member having an angled contact surface configured to contact a portion of a latch member such that a force applied by the contact surface to the portion of the latch member rotates the portion into engagement with the hook member and limits a rotation of the hook member. Rather, in contrast to the present

invention, Collet merely describes a locking lever having a wheel that maintains contact with a hook, but a force applied by the hook against the wheel does not rotate the wheel into engagement with the hook such that a rotation of the hook is limited. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as being patentable over Collet.

Claims 2-7 and 10 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-7 and 10 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 2-7 and 10 likewise are patentable over Collet.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-7 and 10 under Section 102 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collet is respectfully traversed.

Collet is described above.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

No combination of Collet describes nor suggests a locking mechanism as is recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Collet describes nor suggests a latching mechanism that includes a hook member having an angled contact surface configured to contact a portion of a latch member such that a force applied by the contact surface to the portion of the latch member rotates the portion into engagement with the hook member and limits a rotation of the hook member. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Collet merely describes a locking lever having a wheel that maintains contact with a hook, but a force applied by the hook against the wheel does not rotate the wheel into engagement with the hook such that a rotation of the hook is limited. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as being patentable over Collet.

When the recitations of Claims 8 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over Collet.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 8 and 9 under Section 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Zychlewicz', written over a horizontal line.

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